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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Nicholas A. J. Millington
APPLICATION NO.: 10/816,217
FILING DATE: April 1, 2004
TITLE: System and Method for Synchronizing Operations
among a Plurality of Independently Clocked Digital
Data Processing Devices
EXAMINER: Jeffrey L. Nickerson
ART UNIT: 2442
CONF. NO.: 7302
ATTY. DKT. NO.: PA3445US

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Examiner Interview Agenda

Examiner Nickerson:

Please find the below agenda for our Interview scheduled for Thursday,
April 8, 2010, at 3:00 PM EST (12:00 noon PST). I will call you at the scheduled
time at (571) 270-3631.

AGENDA

I. Proposed Amendment to claim 577

577. (Currently Amended) A method for synchronizing media playback, the method comprising:

receiving a media stream from a source device via a network, the source device being one of a plurality of devices in communication via the network, the media stream comprising source-clock information related to ~~an~~ a first independent clock associated with the source device and media data;

determining a time differential between the first independent clock associated with the source device and one or more second independent clocks associated with one or more playback devices, the time differential based on the source-clock information received from the source device, each of the one or more playback devices being one of the plurality of devices; and

outputting the media stream media data via two or more playback devices in synchrony based on the time differential determined based on the source-clock information, the two or more playback devices being in synchrony when a user observing the outputting of the media stream is unable to perceive time-delay differences between the two or more playback devices.

II. *In re Keller*

To expedite prosecution, the Applicant will address each reference cited against the pending claims and plans to respectfully request the Examiner address the substance of the Applicant's remarks for each claim element.

III. Proposed Arguments

The Applicant would like to discuss the below proposed arguments with the Examiner

A. The cited references fail to disclose a source device that is configured to transmit a media stream, wherein the media stream comprises *source-clock information related to an independent clock associated with the source device and media data.*

B. "Playback offset differential" is disclosed in *Benslimane*, not the claimed embodiments, and was addressed in Response E to explain why The Applicant believed *Benslimane* fails to teach "output[ing] the media stream ... in synchrony based on the time differential," as set forth in claim 577.

IV Examiner Suggestions/Feedback

The Applicant would like to work with the Examiner to get this case allowed, and welcomes any suggested amendments to the claims the Examiner feels may be helpful in getting the present case allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicholas A. J. Millington

April 8, 2010

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